EXCISE

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ACTION EA-12
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FM AMEMBSSY SEOUL
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COMUSKOREA SEOUL KS//BJ-IS
C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 04821
E.O. 10265: GDS 04/17/86 (CLARK, WILLIAM) OR-P
TAGS: PINT PGOV SHUM KS JA
SUBJECT: KIM DAE JUNG HINTS AT THE FORMATION
OF A NEW POLITICAL PARTY
REF: SEOUL 4624
1. (C - ENTIRE TEXT)
2. SUMMARY: IN AN APRIL 16 SPEECH, KIM DAE JUNG (M-R: KIM TAE-CHUNG) HINTED AT THE FORMATION OF A NEW, "PURE" POLITICAL PARTY CENTERED ON THOSE WHO HAVE STRUGGLED FOR DEMOCRACY FROM THE BEGINNING. KIM TOOK A COUPLE OF SWIPES AT NDP PRESIDENT KIM YOUNG SAM (M-R: KIM YONG-SAM) AND THE PARTY. KIM DENIED BEING A RADICAL, EXCEPT WHERE OPPRESSION AND CORRUPTION ARE CONCERNED. IT IS TOO EARLY TO SAY WHETHER KIM IS REALLY THINKING ABOUT FORMING A NEW PARTY, BUT THE GAP BETWEEN HIM AND INSTITUTIONAL POLITICS SEEMS TO BE GETTING A LITTLE WIDER ALL THE TIME. IF THE GAP BECOMES UNBRIDGEABLE, KIM MAY RESPOND BY MAKING EVER STRONGER DENUNCIATIONS OF THE PARTY AND THE GOVERNMENT, BOTH OF WHICH INSTITUTIONS ARE LIKELY TO REACT. END SUMMARY.
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3. IN A SPEECH AT HANKUK THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY ACCURATELY TITLED "MORALITY AND POLITICS," KIM DAE JUNG GAVE THE STRONGEST HINT YET THAT HE MAY BE THINKING OF FORMING A NEW OPPOSITION POLITICAL PARTY. IF SUCH A PARTY WERE FORMED IT WOULD BE CENTERED ON THOSE NOW OUT OF POLITICS. "THE CORE OF DEMOCRATIC STRENGTH IS THE OUT OF OFFICE PEOPLE WHO HAVE NOT SUCCUMBED TO OPPRESSION AND WHO HAVE FOUGHT FOR THE PEOPLE FROM THINNING." KIM CLEARLY FITS THIS PATTERN. "I HAVE NEVER DABBLED MY FEET IN ANY PART OF YUSHIN."
4. KIM SAID THAT HIS DECISION NOT TO JOIN THE NDP WAS A DIFFERENCE OF OPINION WITH THE PARTY AS TO WHO WAS THE FOCAL POINT FOR THE EVENTS LEADING UP TO PRESIDENT PARK'S DEATH AND WHO HAD LED THE STRUGGLE FOR DEMOCRACY AND HUMAN
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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY A Teepe DATE 8/18/82
PORTIONS DENIED AS INDICATED

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RIGHTS. (NDP PRESIDENT KIM YOUNG SAM OF COURSE TAKES MAJOR CREDIT FOR THIS.) KIM CRITICIZED BOTH THE NDP AND DRP FOR NOT IMMEDIATELY CONVOKING THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY TO DISCUSS SUCH PROBLEMS AS INFLATION AND CAMPUS DISTURBANCES. KIM EMPHASIZED THAT THE LATTER PROBLEM SHOULD BE SOLVED THROUGH DIALOG SO AS NOT TO "GIVE AN EXCUSE TO THOSE WHO WANT CONFUSION."

3. ON OTHER SUBJECTS, KIM SAID OF HIS IMAGE AS A RADICAL, "I'M COMPLETELY RADICAL ABOUT THOSE WHO OPPRESS THE PEOPLE AND THOSE WHO VIOLATE MORALITY. BUT TO THOSE OF GOODNESS AND WHO WORK FOR THE PEOPLE, I AM AS MEEK AS A LAMB." KIM ALSO PRAISED SYNGMAN RHEE'S (PHONETIC: YI SUNG-MAN) FIGHT AGAINST THE JAPANESE, BUT SAID TRAGEDY HAD STARTED WHEN RHEE HAD BEGUN TO SURROUND HIMSELF WITH PRO-JAPANESE ADVISORS.

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4.

7. PARENTHETICALLY, KIM DAE JUNG'S SPEECH HAD THE UNFORTUNATE EFFECT OF TRIGGERING THE RESIGNATION OF HANKUK THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY'S PRESIDENT CHO HYANG NOK. CHO, AN ACTIVIST IN HUMAN RIGHTS WHO HAD ONE TIME BEEN THE PRESIDENT OF THE KOREAN CHAPTER OF AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL, SAID THAT THE INVITATION FROM THE STUDENTS TO KIM SHOWED, ALONG WITH OTHER COMPLAINTS, A LACK OF CONFIDENCE IN HIM AND THAT HE HAD NO CHOICE BUT TO RESIGN. GLEYSTEEN

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